

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 772

By Massey

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Knox Heritage on the occasion of its fortieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in paying tribute to those exemplary organizations that work with purpose and conviction to revitalize their respective communities through historic preservation; and

WHEREAS, one such worthy organization is Knox Heritage, which was founded at the Dulin Art Gallery in Knoxville and incorporated on April Fools' Day, 1974; and

WHEREAS, Knox Heritage was founded in response to a crisis involving the historic Bijou Theatre, which was built in 1909 and had previously hosted the Marx Brothers, Dizzy Gillespie, and many other entertainers; and

WHEREAS, in the intervening years, the Bijou had fallen on hard times, and demolition and neglect were threatening to destroy an important part of Knoxville's history; and

WHEREAS, a concerned group of citizens refused to let this happen, and Knox Heritage was founded to save the Bijou; thankfully, the group raised sufficient funds to purchase the Bijou and save it for future generations to enjoy; and

WHEREAS, since that time, Knox Heritage has been dedicated to protecting and preserving structures and places in Knox County with historic or cultural significance; and

WHEREAS, in addition to educating the community about the benefits of historic preservation, Knox Heritage has acquired blighted houses that were once the worst examples of neglect and restored them to attractive homes, thus improving historic neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, over the past four decades, Knox Heritage has helped secure funding for development projects which contribute to the revitalization of Knoxville's downtown, has focused

attention on some of Knox County's most endangered cultural and historic assets, and has encouraged owners to preserve these unique places for the next generation; and

WHEREAS, perhaps most importantly, Knox Heritage has helped build a broad network of citizens who value historic preservation throughout the community; and

WHEREAS, the tireless dedication of the countless volunteers who serve on the Knox Heritage board and its committees, the financial support of thousands of members, the professionalism of the hard working and talented staff, and the growing awareness of the importance of historic preservation by the Knoxville community have made and continue to make Knox Heritage a relevant organization with a bright future; and

WHEREAS, Knox Heritage's many success stories over the course of its history ensures that the organization's fortieth anniversary is being celebrated with pride, not only by its supporters and the citizens of Knox County, but also by the members of this General Assembly; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and recognize Knox Heritage for its valuable work and ongoing commitment to historic preservation, join with the organization's volunteers, members, and staff in celebrating its fortieth anniversary, and extend to these fine people our best wishes for much continued success in preserving the history and culture of Knoxville and Knox County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.